

The Times-Di

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1910.

SAND YOUR TRACK, MR. TAFT!

It will not be considered out of place, we are sure, if we shall seize this opportunity of making some suggestions to President Taft that would be of use to him in the preparation of his annual message to Congress, and in the further prosecution of the work of his administration.

In the first place, Mr. Taft should insist upon the revision of the tariff downward; and this revision should be made without delay.

The Payne-Aldrich bill is far from satisfactory to the country. It was not satisfactory to the President himself when it was passed, and there has been no improvement in it since its enactment. We are quite ready to admit that it is the best tariff the Republicans have ever made, but, surely, that is not extravagant praise. It is not what the party promised nor what the people wanted. This was made very clear at the recent elections. The tariff was the leading issue in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—the hottest of protection. Foss made his race for Governor upon this issue, and Foss was triumphantly elected, beating his Republican opponent by something like 40,000 plurality. The tariff was also an issue in New Jersey and out West, and wherever the fight was made on this issue the Democrats won. There is to be a Democratic majority in the next House, and the Republican majority in the Senate has been materially reduced.

There is much objection in some quarters about Mr. Taft's plan of piecemeal revision, but the people demand that the tariff shall be revised from top to bottom in the interest of the people, and not in behalf of the pensioners of the protective system.

Then there is another question upon which Mr. Taft should exercise the greatest caution—the ship subsidy question. It has been reported that he intends to urge the passage of a ship subsidy measure by the Congress at the approaching session. We trust that he will do nothing of the sort. The ship subsidy business is "loaded." Mr. Taft, let it alone!

Under the Constitution it is the duty of the President to inform Congress as to "the state of the Union," and it is in no sense incumbent upon him to initiate policies of the ship subsidy sort.

We gave you some most valuable counsel about the tariff bill, and you would not take it, and you know now, better than we can tell it, what happened. Sidestep the ship subsidy issue, Mr. Taft!

A question of much interest to the people of this country is the pension question. It costs the people of the United States more than \$150,000,000 annually to pay the cost of conducting "The War of the Rebellion" nearly fifty years ago. There are thousands of unworthy men on the pension list—men who never smelt powder, men who performed absolutely no service to the country, and yet the impudent demand has been made that the pension burden must still further be "loaded" on the dollar-a-day plan. It is nothing less than a reproach to the United States that the men who fought for the Union must be paid for their services, forty-five years after the Union was saved. Mr. Taft will find in the veto messages of Grover Cleveland some splendid material that he might be able to work over for the information of Congress and the honor of the United States.

There is another question upon which we hope Mr. Taft will meditate seriously, and that is the question of insisting upon a square deal for the great volume of capital that has been invested in the productive industries of this country. There have been many abuses, unquestionably, in the management of the transportation affairs of the country, in the methods by which the trusts have managed their business. There must be regulation of the public utilities, but regulation does not mean confiscation. The popular side, after all, is the right side. The people are beginning to see things as they are, and the day of the demagogue is passing.

We do not think Mr. Taft has a fair chance, and his own party is to blame for it. He will enter upon the second half of his administration, however, stronger in the confidence of the people, we believe, than he has ever been. We wish him well in his work. In spite of his party:

SAVIE.

The educators of the Commonwealth of Virginia, teachers and superintendents, two thousand strong, are now the guests of Richmond. It has been well said that this is a convention city. The records show that in the past few years many a convention has met within our gates to go from their increased in strength and wisdom. All sorts and conditions of men have met here—men in trades and men in the

professions—men in all kinds of technical vocations. Some have been small gatherings, some have taxed the accommodations of the city by reason of its size.

It is safe and sane to say, however, that no convention that meets here is so important, so vital to Virginia, so far-reaching in its power for progress as the Virginia Educational Conference. The greatest civil army of the civilized world is that of the teachers—the strongest arm of the State is its educational arm.

These men and women who have assembled here represent the power that is moulding the coming generation for the welfare of Virginia. Into their hands has been committed the incomparable trust of directing and properly investing the minds and souls of thousands of the future citizens of the State we love and honor. In a very sure sense, these teachers shape the destiny of the community and Commonwealth in which they live and move and serve.

They come here, some from educational fortresses of brick and mortar, new and handsome, and some from the plain frame buildings that are scattered throughout the land. Yet it matters not so much what the form of the temple, it is the character of the teacher which counts. It was Garfield who said that his idea of education was a log with the pupil sitting on one end and Mark Hopkins on the other. So it is in this day and time. The teacher is the thing. Not massive buildings, not modern appliances, not the panoply of educational wealth can make the true teacher—these things may help—but high purpose, unrelenting endeavor, persistent loyalty, endless patience, true patriotism, self-sacrifice, service—these are the footsteps on the path to true teaching.

None can know but the great rank and file of the teachers themselves what problems they have to solve, what situations they have to meet, what humiliations they must show when pride rebels. Often receiving short salaries and working long hours, they are, taking them for all in all, uncomplaining. In some far-off Utopian day, we shall reward them in proportion to their great and faithful labor, but until then they will, nevertheless, strive patiently on, doing a mighty work for the uplift of the State. It has been true of all ages that the teacher is not compensated commensurately with his labor, but it has been equally true that he or she has been content to labor in the matchless cause of learning. For, my countrymen, what wise old Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in the fourteenth century about the teacher of that day is no less true of the present: "For him was lever than at his beddes hed."

Aristotle, and his philosophic. But robes rich, or fidei, or aultrio. Yet hadd he but litel gold in coffre. And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche."

Aye, it is because they, too, would gladly learn and gladly teach that we welcome to our midst the teachers of Virginia. God speed them in their splendid mission and in their unspeakable service!

THE WISDOM OF WISE.

One of the "heads" of which we are particularly proud and which the Roanoke Times copied a few days ago is "The Wisdom of Wise," which we applied first and in the outburst to the attitude of Wise county toward good roads.

The record-breaking bond issue in Virginia for improved highways was yesterday voted by Wise county by 3,700 ballots out of 2,000. The bond issue will be for \$700,000—the largest bond issue, by far, ever voted in Virginia.

This is an achievement of which the people of Wise may be justly proud, but the action of this Southwest county is a tremendous credit to the whole Commonwealth. It will be heralded from North to South and from East to West as the notable progressive reform accomplished by one Virginia county, smashing all other county records in this State. It will give Wise county and Virginia invaluable advertisement, based on realities and not on theories.

Not only this, but the action of the good people of Wise county yesterday will give an impetus to the cause of good roads in this State that will be hard to estimate. Not as wealthy as some other counties of the State, hitherto not as progressive as some, Wise county now comes to the forefront of the progressive and broad-minded counties of Virginia. Other counties will, by its example, be inspired to join in this great reform, which makes powerfully for the welfare of Virginia.

Our heartiest commendation, our heartiest congratulations go out to the people of Wise for their progressiveness, their public spirit, their patriotic achievement for a greater Virginia. Wise indeed are the people of Wise. All high praise to them!

THE PEOPLE AND THE AMENDMENTS.

Although the State Board of Censors has yet to meet and take official action on the returns from the election of November 8, it has become evident that three of the four proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia have been rejected, and that one has been ratified. The latter is probably the most objectionable of all from the standpoint of those who oppose the principle of unlimited succession in office.

In an election in which The Times-Di

the result in these matters cheerfully and in the best of spirits.

This newspaper has the satisfaction of knowing that the fight which it led, aided by the vast majority of the press of the State, encompassed the defeat of three of the changes which it was proposed to write in the nearly brand-new organic law of the Commonwealth.

Analysis of the vote shows that personal interest carried the amendment which will permit the indefinite reelection of county treasurers and commissioners of the revenue. The propositions to extend the session of the Legislature to ninety days, and that to require only one instead of three readings of bills in each House of the General Assembly, were, if the arguments of their proponents were sound, in the interest of the people as a whole, and not of any individual. Yet these amendments under the fight on them by The Times-Di

How different the situation was in regard to the succession of county and city officers, is shown by the returns. Here again there was no personal appeal to the voters to reject the proposition, but in most of the counties and cities there were strong personal demands for their ratification. Thousands of voters, personally uninterested, yielded to the requests of friends who were in office and who desire to stay there, to vote for these amendments. The treasurers and commissioners were well organized, and their organization was effective at the polls.

Another interesting feature of the returns is the apparent vote in the counties on the proposition of county treasurers and commissioners. So far as the figures show, the people of the counties voted against the succession of their officers. The city vote in favor of the two companion amendments carried the one relating to county officials. On the other hand, the vote in the counties for the proposition to permit city treasurers and commissioners to succeed, was insufficient to insure a majority in the State for it.

Of course, the result was illogical. Had it been possible, the Legislature would have coupled these two amendments together, so that a vote for or against one would be for or against both. But this was impracticable, since city and county governments are treated in separate sections of the Constitution.

But we can see no logic in the proposition that because the amendment relating to county officers has been carried, the other should be immediately re-submitted. If a majority should settle the matter in the one case, it should do so in the other. It is as logical to re-submit the section regarding county officers. If appeals to personal friends governed the vote on what should have been a matter of principle, why should not the people have another chance at this amendment as well as at the one which has met with the disapproval of the voters at the polls?

MARCHING ONWARD.

Let the people rejoice in the figures last night submitted to the Virginia Educational Conference by Superintendent of Public Instruction J. D. Eggleston as to the progress of school work in this Commonwealth. These statistics indicate a healthy growth in the public school system of Virginia and an excellent rate of advance in all directions.

There are now, according to Mr. Eggleston's report, 358 schools in this State doing not less than two years of high school work. This is an increase of 143 over the previous year. That alone is a splendid index of progress.

The total amount paid teachers during the last session was \$2,750,918.00, which is an increase of \$167,785.00 over the previous session.

The length of the school term has been enlarged from 6.39 to 6.76 months. The number of children enrolled in the high schools has jumped from 13,418 for the previous year to 15,323 for last session.

As illustrative of the growth of consolidated schools, it is cited that the number of wagons used during last session was 173. Superintendent Eggleston is of opinion that there will be at least two hundred wagons in operation this fall.

The amount spent for school buildings and equipment during the last session was \$681,145.00 against \$519,528.00 for the previous session.

These statistics tell their own story. Education is marching upward, ever upward, in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The educational progress of our State can out give us just cause for pride.

THE PROPOSED CONVENTION.

The Democratic City Committee has unanimously requested the State Democratic Committee to order a convention of the party in this Commonwealth for the purpose of writing a platform "prior to any nomination for the General Assembly." The suggestion that such a convention be held has received the hearty approval of many of the most active workers in the party. Some objection has been made, and it must be frankly admitted that reasonable objection can be made to the holding of such a convention not because there is no need for it, but because of the danger that it will attend such conventions. We believe that, composed of thoughtful, earnest and sincere men, a convention of the party at this time in Virginia would be of great political value. We would suggest that in issuing the call for the convention, if the State Committee shall grant the petition of the party, it would be wise to set forth clearly in the call the purpose for which the convention will be

held, beyond which it will not be proper or binding upon the party for the convention to go. The issues that would seem to require treatment, as we understand, are better regulations of the primary system of party election, a definite policy touching the public schools and higher institutions of learning, a clean-cut declaration on the subject of prohibition. These are the issues to which the work of the convention should be confined.

At its next convention the National Democracy will declare the policy of the party on the tariff and other great national issues, but the three questions we have noted would accord ample scope for the work of the proposed convention in Virginia, and in its call the State Committee might with great propriety restrict its work to the settlement of these matters.

HOT AFTER THE THIEVES.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock is making a name for himself that will go sounding down the ages. He has been much maligned by those who have not known him for what he is—one of the strongest and most active members of the President's official family, with very clear ideas of business management, and as the records will show, a very keen nose for those engaged in the government service who do not keep well within the straight, but narrow path of common honesty. Only a little while ago it was reported that Mr. Hitchcock had managed the affairs of the Post-Office Department so well that it promised not only to pay its way this year, but to put a little to the surplus account. We have hoped that, possibly, the Post-Office Department might be able, under Hitchcock's business management, to declare a dividend. So much for that! But Mr. Hitchcock's activities have not been confined to reducing the cost of the service; he has appeared within the last few days in the role of Sherlock Holmes, and has declared war against the swindling concerns and their thieving business.

Mr. Hitchcock took personal charge in New York on Monday of a raid upon two undertakings in that town, which are believed to have swindled the public out of more than \$400,000. This is the finest thing Hitchcock has yet done, and he has hardly begun! Seventy-eight cases having been made by him during the year. He estimates that within the last five years the American people have been swindled out of \$100,000,000 by the jobbing mine exchange, banana compromise, bucket-shops and the like, which have flourished all over the country.

THE GREAT APPLE WAY.

Two fine highways, each thirty-four miles in length, will be built the length of the Spokane Valley, between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The cost will be \$350,000. They will form what will be known as "The Great Apple Way." The preliminary work will soon be begun, and it is expected that actual construction will begin in the early part of next spring. The funds required will be contributed as follows: States, 50 per cent; counties, 25 per cent, and landowners, 25 per cent.

The roads will be of oil macadam, twenty-four-foot centre, with four-foot shoulders. They will be lined on both sides, after the German fashion, with apple and elm trees, making two of the most remarkable highways in this country. Orchard owners and nurseries and irrigation companies operating in the valley have contributed the water, and the work of caring for them will be done by ranchers along the routes. The work on the Washington side will cost about \$200,000, and will be done under the direction of the State Highway Commissioner and the Spokane County Good Roads Association.

This is cited as an instance of what is being done in other States in the matter of good roads.

LODGE'S SUCCESSOR.

Eliot is, of course, the first choice for United States Senator from Massachusetts, if the will of the people of that Commonwealth shall be carried out in the ousting of Cabot Lodge, political dilittante and "gentleman friend" of the interests. In case, however, that Dr. Eliot shall not be available, the best man that can be substituted for him is the Hon. Curtis Guild, some time Governor of the State, a scholar and a statesman of the first order. There is little possibility of the election of a Democrat, but Republican though he is, we dare say that Guild would be the most acceptable man of his party to the Democrats in the Old Bay State.

Guild served conspicuously in the Spanish-American War, attached to the staff of General Fitzhugh Lee. He was called from business life by the Republican party to become its candidate for Governor, and he was elected by a substantial majority. His two administrations were successful from every point of view. Adhering to the right as he saw it, he performed his duties in a spirit of justice and equity. He was a most impartial chief magistrate, and was universally popular, in which respect he shines by contrast with the ill-forgotten Lodge, for whom the mass of Massachusetts people have no affection.

One of the characteristics of Curtis Guild which will cause many people in this section to hope for his victory over Lodge is that Guild has in his public speeches and acts evidenced a very friendly and generous attitude toward the South and its people. He is tolerant and broad-minded in his views, practicing what he preaches.

The great reason why the people of Massachusetts desire his election is that he is intensely in favor of the popular election of United States Senators. If such a system prevailed in

Massachusetts Lodge would long ago have retired to the bleak and windswept shore of his native Nahant.

FAKE VIOLINS.

The number of people who think that they own violins of rare and ancient manufacture is astonishingly large. If there were any statistics on such a point, it would be found that they are legion who really believe that they own fine old instruments of the Cremona and Stradivarius manufacture.

With but few exceptions, these are of spurious manufacture and are cheap imitations made for the express purpose of defrauding buyers. These fake rare violins have been worked off on unsuspecting purchasers for more than a century, and it is likely that this fraud will exist a long time yet.

Not only amateur musicians, but professional violinists as well are so deceived. Often a player buys a supposed Cremona or Stradivarius and is deluded into thinking that its tone is that mellow and sweet one of the ancient instrument. A violin player in the celebrated Damrosch orchestra lately bought a violin in New Orleans which was sold to him as one of great age and value. Taking it to an expert in New York, he was told that the instrument was of inconsequential age, and that it could be bought for thirty dollars anywhere.

A farmer in Kentucky some years ago bought a violin for which he paid one hundred dollars and a fine shotgun to boot. It turned out to be the cheapest kind of a factory addle, worth less than a dollar on the market.

The deceitful factors in such purchases are the spurious labels on the inside. These are made to appear very old, and are usually accepted as conclusive evidence of the age and value of violins. In many families instruments with their counterfeit labels have been handed down, from generation to generation as heirlooms of great value.

It would appear that the Medical College of Virginia was applying the cone rather much on the gridiron yesterday. It must be remembered that those who have the cone put to them usually "come back."

Hist! the secret service men are upon us!

If the President will only stay with us until to-morrow he shall see a game of football that would make the Eli-Grove Harvard contest look like a chess battle between mollycoddlers.

It is just as well that the census of Charlottesville will not have to be taken to-morrow.

Think of the thousands of school children who are rejoicing that the Virginia Educational Conference is in session!

To-day the army of rosters marches on Richmond.

MUST.

Can North Carolina come back?

Captain Archie Butt, excusing the President and Brother Norton, is the finest looking in the White House entourage. Singular thing about Captain Archie—he has more relatives or good people who claim kin with him than any other man in the service.

Better stay over another day, Mr. Taft, and see how thankful we can be when things are coming our way.

Mr. Taft, he "seen" Charleston first and then came on to Old Point Comfort.

Mr. Taft will note, of course, that George Washington is taking on a fine coat of gray.

The secretary to the President, Charles D. Norton, is an Amherst man. We never knew a son of "the dear little old lady" and "Geoffrey Amherst, a soldier of the king" that wasn't a corking good fellow, scholar and a judge of—oh, well, no matter—but we should really like Mr. Norton to tell us where "Sabrina" is. There is no more beautiful place than the dear old college that nestles among those sapphire Pelham hills up yonder in Massachusetts—and in happy memory of the delightful gentlemen whose hearts are loyal to the purple and the white we hail cordially Norton, '93.

It is not the same thing at all. When he left Washington the other day there was no martial music, and clashing bayonets, and clanging sabers, and prancing horses, and yelling cowboys—it was simply an American gentleman going about his business as a plain American citizen. It was fine, fine, fine!

'Twas a famous victory. Adding another to the list of Yale's various triumphs of the year, after a gruelling contest of four hours and a half, in which no one was seriously injured and none put out for slugging, and only one man for unnecessary roughness, the Yale dominoes team completely outclassed Harvard last Friday night. The championship game must now be fought out between Yale and Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota.

Alas, poor Beveridge! We knew him, leastwise we had heard of him; a fellow of infinite quest. Where he gambles now, his flashes of eloquence that made the Senate sit up and take notice? Quiet chap, fallen; and all because he would not "stay put," but thought he had found a way to keep the people fooled, and only found a bung-hole into which he could crawl, pulling in the bung after him.

Richard Croker knows a hoodoo when he sees it. For instance, Bourke Cockran. The trouble with Bourke is that he talks too much.

We still contend that no lady with large feet should wear the scant skirt.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Di

Arthurian Cycle of Romances.
Please name what is generally considered to constitute the Arthurian cycle of romances.
C. L.
The Arthurian cycle of romances was a series of romances relating to the exploits of King Arthur and his knights. They were "Breton romances" amplified in Wales and adopted at the court of the Plantagenets as the foundation of the epic of chivalry. Geoffrey of Monmouth (about 1140) may perhaps be considered as the source of the legends which were afterwards invented in such manner as to give a chivalric interest to his material. The cycle was a great literary success. From about 1150 poems were sung by wandering minstrels on the adventures of Arthur and his knights. The French prose "Morte Arthur" was not completed till the latter half of the thirteenth century, and had not originally this name. The English "Morte Arthur" of Sir Thomas Malory is thought to have been translated from some earlier compilation, perhaps the French "Morte d'Arthur" of Geoffroi de Villehardouin. The Round Table, Lancelot, the Holy Grail, Tristan, Percival, Mollodag, Guinevere, Le Triste, and Arthur de Bretagne are the principal romances, both British and French, in this cycle. There is a large number of minor romances, and prose romances which deal with special episodes.

Motor Power at Night.
In reply to inquiry regarding increase of motor power at night, my theory has always been that it was due to changes of temperature and atmospheric pressure, as I have very often noticed the same thing with marine engines.
S. V.
Sarah Bernhardt.
Will you please print in your Query Column a brief sketch of the career of Sarah Bernhardt, now touring this country?
THEATRE.
Rosine Bernhardt (Sarah Bernhardt) was born in Paris, France, and from her mother's side. She is celebrated in

Fabian Society.
What was the purpose of the Fabian Society?
The avowed purpose of the Fabian Society, a Socialistic organization founded in London in 1883, is to reorganize society "by the emancipation of land and capital from individual ownership, and by the vesting of them in the community for the general benefit."

To Enlist.
Must a man be a citizen of the United States in order to enlist in the United States Army?
He must be a citizen or one who has declared his intention to become a citizen.

DECISION OF QUEEN WITHOUT PRECEDENT

BY LA MARQUESE DE FONTENOY.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S decision to attend the coronation of her son and daughter-in-law, King George V and Queen Mary, at Westminster Abbey, on June 22 next, has created a great deal of discussion in consequence of the lack of any English precedent. The English newspapers show an extraordinary amount of ignorance about this matter, and insisting that the only instance of a queen attending a coronation since Plantagenet times, surviving the coronation of her son was Queen Henrietta. Another error is the erroneous assumption that she was present at his coronation. Now the most elementary knowledge of English history would show that Queen Henrietta was in France at the time of Charles II's coronation, which took place with much pomp and ceremony at St. Dunstons, on April 23, 1661, the ceremony being performed by Archbishop Juxon, who had attended Charles I. on his scaffold and had refused to read the instructions. Henrietta, who mourned her ill-fated husband deeply, found it impossible to support after her son's restoration, everything contributing to remind her of the tragedy which had robbed her of her consort. That after the coronation of her son, King George V, on June 22, 1911, she should leave of her at Hampton Court Palace, she sailed in the middle of January, 1901, for France, where the marriage of the Princess to the Duke of Orleans, Palatine in April, 1901, had taken place. Immediately afterwards Queen Henrietta retired to her favorite chateau of Colombes, a few miles from Paris, where she died on the 24th of February, 1902, at the age of 62, when she paid a brief visit to her son, Charles II, and to his newly married wife, Catherine, at Greenwich, and returned again to her chateau of Colombes, where she died in 1663, deeply mourned, not only in England, as the widow of Charles I., but also in France, as the only surviving child of that most popular of French kings, Henry IV. It is therefore a mistake to say that she was not present at the coronation of her son, Charles II, being in France at the time.

George II's mother, who survived the coronation of her son by nearly twelve years, and, extremely ambitious and fond of power, contributed in no small degree to the downfall of the Stuart dynasty, and was largely responsible for the loss of the American colonies, now called the United States. But she was not a Queen, being merely the widow of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and therefore her presence at the coronation of her son cannot be regarded in any way as constituting a precedent for that of Queen Alexandra at the coronation of George V. In my knowledge no precedent in England at any time. The widow of William IV, was married to King George IV, and although in England at the time, never emerged from her deep retirement from the moment of her husband's death. The only instance I can recall of the widowed consort of a sovereign taking a prominent part in the coronation of her son is that of the present Empress of Russia, who, when crowned at Moscow, walked and sat either slightly in advance or between his mother and his wife, and his wife at his left. This was, however, at the desire of the young Empress.

In Germany, the Emperor Frederick never been crowned, either as German Emperor or as King of Prussia, the question never arose of her presence at or absence from his coronation. King Alfonso of Spain, King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, King Albert of Belgium, King Gustav of Sweden, King Frederick of Denmark, King Leopold Augustus of Saxony and King William of Wurtemberg have never been crowned. And the Kings of Bulgaria and of Montenegro have been crowned from any other source. The King of Norway, his father, the King of Denmark, and his mother, the Queen of Sweden, were respectively remained away, for fear of still further intensifying the animosity of Sweden against Denmark, for having played any part in the succession of Norway from Sweden.

It remains to be seen whether the laws of English etiquette, some of which are statutory, and others of which, though unwritten, have by dint of age and ancient usage become so firmly established that they are statutory, will admit of Queen Alexandra, who retains all her wonderful popularity, enjoying the "day" of her daughter-in-law at the coronation in June.

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